

Appl. No.: 10/624,821
Amdt. Dated: 05/10/2005
Off. Act. Dated: 02/10/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. **Allowability of Claims.**

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that Claims 2-7, 10-15, 17-22 and 24-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, the Applicant has amended the claims as follows:

Claim 2 has been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations Claim 1 from which it depends. Therefore, Claim 2 is in a condition for allowance, as are Claims 3-7 which depend therefrom.

Claim 10 has been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of Claims 8 and 9 from which it depends. Therefore, Claim 10 is in a condition for allowance, as are Claims 11-15 which depend therefrom.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend from Claim 10 to correct its dependency.

Claim 17 has been amended into independent form to include all of the limitations of Claim 16 from which it depends. Therefore, Claim 17 is in a condition for allowance, as are Claims 18-22 which depend therefrom.

Claim 24 has been amended into independent form to include all the limitations of Claim 23 from which it depends. Therefore, Claim 24 is in a condition for allowance, as are Claims 25-29 which depend therefrom.

2. **Rejection of Claims 1, 8, 9, 16 and 23.**

Claims 1, 8, 9, 16 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,455,958 to Flurry et al. This rejection is now moot in view of the Applicant's cancellation of those claims.

3. **Amendments/Cancellations Made Without Prejudice or Estoppel.**

The Applicant has taken the action herein in order to expedite prosecution, and such action should not be construed as acquiescence to the grounds for rejection.

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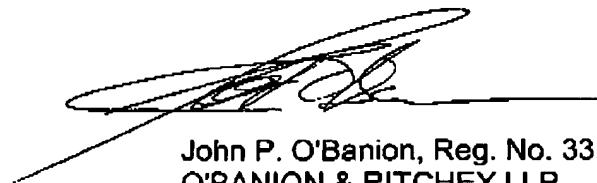
Furthermore, the action taken herein is without any prejudice, waiver, or estoppel, and without forfeiture or dedication to the public, with respect to the original subject matter of the claims as originally filed or in their form immediately preceding these amendments. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original scope of these claims in the future, such as through continuation practice for example.

4. Conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to issue. In the event any further matters remain at issue with respect to the present application, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner please contact the undersigned below at the telephone number indicated in order to discuss such matter prior to the next action on the merits of this application.

Date: 5/2/05

Respectfully submitted,



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